

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 2-7, 10-15, and 17-22 are pending in the application; claims 1, 8, 9, and 16 are canceled herein, and claims 18-22 are newly added.

The applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s), and for determining that the drawings are acceptable.

The Office action indicates that claims 2-7 and 10-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the parent claims. These claims are correspondingly amended herein.

The Office action fails to identify the status of claim 17. If claim 17 is not determined to be allowable, the applicants respectfully request that a non-final Office action be issued, so that the applicants have a fair opportunity to respond.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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